Statehood for Delhi

1676. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi MetropolitanCouncil recently passed a resolution demanding Statehood for Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. However, a resolution that Delhi be granted Legistative Assembly, was passed by the Metropolitan Council on 3 June, 1988.

(b) The Sarkaria Committee has been set up to consider and make recommendations for re-organising and rationalising the administrative and municipal set up of Delhi. However, there is no propbsal under consideration to grant Statehood to Delhi.

Success of Ganga action plan

1677. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some senior officials of the Bihar State Wastage and Sewage Disposal Board have expressed doubts about the ultimate success of the Ganga Action Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for these doubts and what action has been taken by the Central Government to implement the project successfully?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Government are not aware of any doubts expressed by senior officials of the Bihar State Wastage and Sewage Disposal Board about the ultimate success of the Ganga Action Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of the Indo-Japan Standing Committee held in Tokyo

1678. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Indo-Japan Standing Committee was held in Tokyo recently;

(b) whether any action plan has been agreed upon to promote Indo-Japanese trade and exports to third world countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Four Working Groups on Fresh Fruits and Vegetable, Readymade Garments; Engineering Goods; and Leather Products were constituted in the 20th Meeting of I.J.B.C.C. held in December, 1987 to suggest ways and means to increase Indian exports of these items to Japan. The Groups have further exchanged information/held discussions relating to identification of specific items of exports, their price and quality competiveness, export promotion measures, market potential and marketing strategy etc.

IDBI loan in foreign exchange for new units

1679. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has decided to make available foreign exchange loans at a fixed rate of interest to new units and provide protection to entrepreneurs from foreign exchange rate fluctuations;

(b) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has requested the Bank to extend such relief to the projects set up during the last three-four years; and

(c) if so, what decison has been taken there by the bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A scheme called the Exchange Risk Administration Scheme is being finalised by the IDBI.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The request is under consideration.

Rise in prices of essential Commodities

1680. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent report about continuing rise in the prices of essential commodities and in the inflation rate; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to curb the prices rise and inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The prices generally come under pressure during the first half of the financial year due to seasonal factors. The Wholesale Price Index has recorded an increase of 3.4 per cent since the end of March, 1988 upto 23rd July, 1988 which is the lowest rate of increase for this period in several years. While the prices of some items like rice, pulses and sugar have gone up, those of others like wheat and edible oils have registered a decline.

(b) The measures taken to curb the price rise include steps to optimise foodgrains production, strengthening of the Public Distribution System, imports and release of essential commodities like pulses and edible oils, strict economy in government expenditure, restraint on money supply growth selective credit controls and intensive action against profiteers and hoarders.

Treaty on Disclosure of illegal assets of Indians in Swiss banks

1681. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of negotiations with the Swiss Government for a treaty or understanding on disclosure of illegal assets;

(b) what are the reasons for which Government have not so far invoked the existing Swiss Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance; and

(c) whether Government feel that some offences under the Indian laws have been committed by some persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) For obtaining mutual assistance in criminal matters, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between Governments of India and Switzerland. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Governments, it is not feasible for the Government of India to apprach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

1682. [*Transferred to the 11th August*, 1988]

Changes in the existing guidelines on Foreign collaboration

1683. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make major changes in the existing guidelines on foreign collaboration to create a